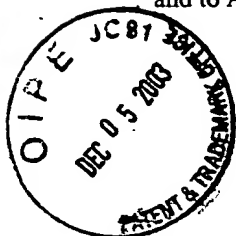


Appl. No. 09/779,866
Preliminary Amendment, Reply to Final Office Action, mailed July 30, 2003,
and to Advisory Action mailed November 7, 2003

#11/B
WM



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JAMES E. PRICER

Serial No.: 09/779,866

Filed: FEBRUARY 8, 2001

For: ANALYZING ASSOCIATIONS IN THE
ORDER OF TRANSACTIONS

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Group Art No. 2172

Examiner: MONPLAISIR G. HAMILTON

Attorney Docket No.: 9517

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DEC 11 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114 Technology Center 2100


Mail Stop RCE
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING VIA EXPRESS MAIL

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE
INFORMATION AND A REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEF THAT THIS
CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE DEPOSITED AS EXPRESS MAIL POST
OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:

MAIL STOP RCE
HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

ON DECEMBER 5, 2003

 12-05-2003
JULIE CLEMENTS DATE

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL: EV339222721US
DATE OF MAILING: 12/05/2003

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 30, 2003, and to the Advisory Action mailed on November 7, 2003 and faxed on November 12, 2003, Applicant files this Preliminary Amendment and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal on October 7, 2003, concurrently with a Response to Final Office Action mailed July 30, 2003. As the two-month shortened statutory time for reply is

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due Sunday, December 7, 2003, this Preliminary Amendment is therefore considered timely filed.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

Amendments to the Claims, if any, are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.